

Torrance, California
November 5, 1929.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE.

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Torrance, was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, November 5th., 1929, and was called to order at 7:50 P. M. by Mayor Dennis.

The following trustees were present: Trustees: Maxwell, Nelson, Steiner and Dennis.

Absent: Trustee: Wolfe.

Trustee Steiner moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 15th., 1929, be adopted.

Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Steiner moved that the minutes of the special meeting of October 29th., 1929, be adopted.

Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the County of Los Angeles Road Department under date of October 18th., 1929, addressed to Mr. F. R. Leonard, City Engineer, acknowledging Mr. Leonard's letter of October 17th., 1929, in connection with the proposed relocation of the crossing over the Pacific Electric tracks on El Prado Road, near Western Avenue, and advising that the Grade Crossing Committee has not acted as yet on this matter. This matter will be properly arranged long before the expiration of the time limit set by the Commission in its original order.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the Pacific Engineering & Construction Company under date of October 21st., 1929, addressed to Mr. F. R. Leonard, City Engineer, quoting price of (\$150.00) for replacement of light standard broken on Arlington Avenue.

Engineer Leonard stated that the City will be reimbursed by the Insurance Company for this amount.

Trustee Steiner moved that the Clerk be instructed to issue a warrant for the statement when the bill is received.

Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: TRUSTEES: Maxwell, Nelson, Steiner and Dennis.

NOES: " None.

ABSENT: " Wolfe.

At 8:10 P. M. Trustee Wolfe arrived at the meeting.

At this time Mayor Dennis introduced Mr. A. J. Roberti, General Manager of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, and also General Manager of the other companies operated on the Pacific Coast, who, as a representative of that company wished to present their side of the water question.

About a year and a half ago when they acquired the plant, they had no knowledge of the situation existing, and they took steps they believed would remedy the condition.

Mr. Roberti stated that the company will correct the present water condition, as they have several proposals in mind at the present time, one of which includes a new source of water supply. But before they can proceed to spend this additional amount of money for this additional equipment, it will be necessary for them to have some assurance from the Council, that the money they are to spend and the plans they have in mind will not be jeopardized.

The company is not opposed to a municipally owned water system, and if the City of Torrance wishes to acquire the plant, they will be glad to co-operate with them.

Mr. Roberti continued that they had a piece of pipe, that is (17) years old, cut out of the present system and examined by Smith-Emerly & Company of Los Angeles. This pipe was found to be in very good condition for (17) year old pipe.

Mr. Roberti compared the rates of Torrance with those of Los Angeles, and said the rate in Los Angeles was \$.13 per 100 Cubic Feet, and that they seemed to have a sliding scale whereby large consumers were charged a higher rate, giving the small consumers the benefit of this rate, and that he suggested something like that might be arranged for Torrance.

The Torrance Water, Light & Power Company are not trying to oppose the people of Torrance and their proposed efforts, but they do wish assurance that any additional expenditures they make will not be jeopardized.

Mayor Dennis then read the comparison of rates from the report of the Water Committee, which showed that Torrance has a very much higher rate than any of the named cities. He stated that he did not think the council had any right to give the company any assurance as to how they would act if additional money was spent to improve conditions.

Mr. Roberti stated that he could not guarantee any lowering of rates at the present time. The only way the rates could be lowered, would be to charge the large corporation consumers a higher rate, and lower the rate of the smaller consumers.

Mr. Sam Levy asked Mr. Roberti if it was a fact that water was being delivered to the people of Torrance from the reservoir?

Mr. Roberti stated it was.

A question was asked as to how we are going to stop getting water from a reservoir that has not been cleaned in eighteen (18) years? Mr. Roberti answered that it will be necessary to install a filtering plant. Under the supervision of any chemist or our City Engineer the company is willing to cut any section of their pipes that we wish them to cut, and are even willing to put in flow meters to check the back flow of the water.

Mr. Roberti stated that it would require about (15) days before they would have any definite plans, and about three or four months time before they could furnish the city with good pure water. This condition is more apparent in the months of May to October.

Trustee Nelson asked Mr. Roberti if he would be willing to go on record as General Manager of his company, to remedy the water within a given time to satisfy the people with good pure water. Mr. Roberti stated that he would, and it would take about (90) days to do so, first by eliminating the supply of the Dominguez Water Company, erecting a large tank where they are given permission to do so; and also a Dominguez connection in case of fire hazard.

Mayor Dennis stated that the members of the council were not the ones to say whether an election should be called for the purpose of determining whether or not Torrance should have a municipally owned water system, and he asked Attorney Briney how the people would go about it to call an election.

Attorney Briney stated that all that is necessary is for a petition with the required number of names on it be presented to the council asking to call an election for the purpose of determining whether or not the City of Torrance will acquire a municipally owned water works. If this petition is presented, it is entirely up to the Council to call an election.

Clerk Bartlett stated that an election would cost around (\$600.00) having more than one precinct.

Engineer Leonard wished to go on record as not favoring the present Water Company, or a new municipally owned water works, that he was merely doing his work as instructed.

Trustee Steiner moved that the Water Committee be instructed to continue their investigation, ascertaining what the conditions really were in the present Water System, so that they may be able to answer any questions asked by the people.

Trustee Wolfe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Steiner moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write the Union Tool Company, notifying them to discontinue the blowing of the curfew whistle at 9: P. M. each night.

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Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Trustee Maxwell stated that he thought Mr. Andrews the garbage collector was underpaid. He is a very efficient man, and should receive a higher salary, as he uses his own truck to work with.

The City Attorney was instructed to look into the matter, as to whether or not his salary could be raised in accordance with the law.

Trustee Maxwell moved that Mr. Andrews be paid (\$300.00) salary, and (\$100.00) a month for the use of his own truck, beginning July 1st., 1929.

Trustee Nelson seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Maxwell, Nelson, Wolfe and Dennis.
NOES:	"	Steiner.
ABSENT:	"	None.

Trustee Steiner moved that warrants be drawn, for all bills, properly audited.

Trustee Maxwell seconded the motion, which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	TRUSTEES:	Maxwell, Nelson, Steiner, Wolfe and Dennis.
NOES:	"	None.
ABSENT:	"	None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 P. M.

G. H. Baxend
City Clerk of the City of Torrance.

Approved:

John Dennis
Mayor of the City of Torrance.